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Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049199

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, NI

SUBJECT: THE SECRETART'S CONVERSATION WITH NIGERIAN ARMY
CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL DANJUMA, FEBRUARY 22

SUMMARY: IN THE COURSE OF A HALF HOUR CALL BY GENERAL
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DANJUMA, THE SECRETARY OUTLINED US VIEWS ON CHAD, THE
HORN, RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. GENERAL DANJUMA SAID HIS
VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN EXCELLENT AND THAT
HE WOULD SOON REQUEST ASSISTANCE TO MAKE THE NIGERIAN
DEFENSE ACADEMY INTO A DEGREE GRANTING INSTITUTION. THE
SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD LOOK SYMPATHETICALLY ON SUCH A
REQUEST AND THAT HE WOULD URGE DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN TO

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BE HELPFUL WHEN THE REQUEST WAS RECEIVED. END SUMMARY

1. FEBRUARY 22, AT THE END OF HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO THE US AS GUEST OF US ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL ROGERS, GENERAL DANJUMA CALLED ON THE SECRETARY. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR JOLAOSO AND GROUP CAPTAIN FALOPE, NIGERIAN DEFENSE ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON. ON US SIDE, IN ADDITION TO THE SECRETARY, MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY AF ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARROP, COLONEL WILLIE HAYWOOD, US DATT LAGOS, AND AF/W DIRECTOR.

2. PRESIDENT'S VISIT: SECRETARY BEGAN BY EXPRESSING

PLEASURE THAT THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO NIGERIA HAD NOW BEEN ARRANGED. DANJUMA REPLIED THAT NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO VISIT.

3. THE HORN: TURNING TO THE HORN, THE SECRETARY SAID WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH NIGERIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER GARBA AND THAT WE SUPPORT THE NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORTS. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION MIGHT HELP, AND HE ADDED THAT THE OAU MEETING NOW UNDER WAY MIGHT CLARIFY THE SITUATION SOMEWHAT. HE RECALLED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA SHOULD BE IN LAGOS IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION. HARROP INTERJECTED THAT UN SECRETARY GENERAL
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WALDHEIM HAD INFORMED US OF GARBA'S VIEWS THAT HE NOW HOPED TO BRING THE SOMALIS AND THE ETHIOPIANS TOGETHER IN LAGOS THIS WEEK AND WOULD PREFER TO DEFER A DISCUSSION ON SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION UNTIL HE HAD COMPLETED THIS ATTEMPT.

4. CHAD: THE SECRETARY NOTED OUR APPRECIATION OF NIGERIAN EFFORTS TO MEDIATE THE CHADIAN SITUATION AND ADDED THAT RECONCILIATION OF CHAD AND LIBYA SEEMS TO BE MAKING SOME PROGRESS. THE SECRETARY ASKED IF DANJUMA KNEW THE CURRENT POSITION. DANJUMA REPLIED THAT, ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT SITUATION REPORT HE HAD RECEIVED, LIBYA WOULD NOT PULL OUT OF CHADIAN TERRITORY. THE LIBYANS CLAIMED THAT MAPS OF THE CHAD/LIBYAN FRONTIER WERE INCORRECT. DANJUMA THOUGHT THAT LIBYA WOULD CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT FOR THE CHADIAN "TERRORISTS". HOWEVER, DANJUMA CONTINUED, LIBYA HAD NEVER REJECTED COMPLETELY THE POSSIBILITY OF MEDIATION. DANJUMA RECALLED THAT DURING HIS LAST VISIT TO LAGOS, CHADIAN PRESIDENT MALLOUM HAD COMPLAINED THAT HE HAD NEVER BEEN ABLE TO PIN DOWN QADHAFI TO ASCERTAIN HIS TRUE INTENTIONS. DANJUMA CONCLUDED THAT THE OUTLOOK WAS POOR FOR THE CHADIANS. THE

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DISPUTED TERRITORY CONTINUES TO BE OCCUPIED BY THE LIBYANS, AND FIGHTING BETWEEN CHAD AND GOVERNMENT TROOPS CONTINUES. HARROP NOTED THAT BECAUSE DANJUMA HAD BEEN IN US SINCE FEBRUARY 13 HE MIGHT NOT BE AWARE OF LATEST INFORMATION, IN PARTICULAR THAT FAYA LARGEAU HAD FALLEN TO THE REBELS, THAT THE FRENCH HAVE AGREED TO ASSIST CHAD, AND WOULD AID THE CHADIANS IN ESTABLISHING A DEFENSE LINE ACROSS CHAD.

5. RHODESIA: THE SECRETARY ASKED IF DANJUMA HAD ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING RHODESIA. DANJUMA REPLIED THAT IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SETTLEMENT ANNOUNCED IN SALISBURY WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE, EITHER TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT OR TO A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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OAU. DANJUMA CONTINUED THAT AS LONG AS A GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION CONTINUES, AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WILL NOT BE ENOUGH TO STOP THE FIGHTING. THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT THE INTERNAL EFFORT IN RHODESIA STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO. IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHAT SMITH HAS UP HIS SLEEVE. WE HAVE NOT HAD A CHANCE TO TALK TO MUZOREWA OR SITHOLE.

5. WE BELIEVE THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN PROVIDES AN OP-PORTUNITY FOR ALL FACTIONS IN RHODESIA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENT, THE SECRETARY CONTINUED. WE REGRET THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAS MOVED SO SLOWLY IN THE PAST, BUT WE SHALL KEEP OUR PLAN ON THE TABLE. WE MUST TAKE NOTE OF THE PROGRESS MADE THUS FAR TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT, BUT IN OUR VIEW IT IS ONLY A FIRST STEP IN A LONG PROCESS. IN NO SENSE ARE WE BACKING AWAY FROM THE PROBLEM. WE HAVE HAD A SETBACK. WE REGRET THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAS NOT BEEN WILLING TO TALK TO US FREELY AND FREQUENTLY. IF THEY HAD BEEN WILLING TO MOVE, THE SITUATION MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT.

6. DANJUMA ASKED IF THE US HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE FRONT LINE STATES ON THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, TO WHICH THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WE WILL BE IN TOUCH EITHER BY SENDING A SPECIAL EMISSARY OR BY ASKING OUR AMBASSADORS TO CONTACT THE FRONT LINE STATES. WE WISH TO CONSULT WITH BOTH THE FRONT LINE STATES AND NIGERIA. WHEN THE MALTA TALKS ADJOURNED, THERE APPEARED TO BE SOME PROSPECT OF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS, BUT TO DATE NOTHING HAS HAPPENED. HARROP NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE NIGERIANS COULD PERSUADE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO WORK MORE SERIOUSLY AT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN. DANJUMA RESPONDED THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FRONT WAS NOT EASY TO DEAL WITH. THE SECRETARY AGREED.

7. NAMIBIA: THE SECRETARY TURNED TO NAMIBIA. HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN NEW YORK FOR TALKS WITH SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA. HE SAID HE FELT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE. TWO QUESTIONS HAD PROVED TO BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT; THE FUTURE OF WALVIS BAY AND THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE RESIDUAL SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN NAMIBIA. ON WALVIS BAY, THE US HAD URGED NUJOMA TO POSTPONE DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS. REGARDING DEPLOYMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS, SWAPO HAD AGREED TO ACCEPT 1500 AS OPPOSED TO THE 4,000 PROPOSED BY SOUTH AFRICA, BUT HAD DISAGREED ON THEIR LOCATION. SWAPO WISHED THEM TO BE CONFINED TO A BASE IN SOUTH NAMIBIA. THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSED THAT THEY BE CONFINED TO TWO BASES IN THE NORTH, UNDER UN SUPERVISION. THE MAJORITY OF FRONT LINE REPRESENTATIVES HAD SUPPORTED THE WESTERN POSITION

BUT NUJOMA HAD STILL DISAGREED. THE SECRETARY SAID HE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CHANGE NUJOMA'S MIND. IF THIS WERE TO HAPPEN, SOUTH AFRICA WOULD BE ISOLATED AND WOULD FIND ITSELF OPPOSED BY THE FIVE POWER CONTACT GROUP AS WELL AS SWAPO. NUJOMA LEFT THE US WITH PLANS TO VISIT SOME NORDIC COUNTRIES. THE SECRETARY SAID HE HAD RAISED NAMIBIA WITH THE DANISH PRIME MINISTER AND HAD URGED HIM TO USE HIS BEST EFFORTS TO SECURE NUJOMA'S AGREEMENT.

8. DANJUMA ASKED IF THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAD WALKED OUT OF THE TALKS TO WHICH THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT BOTHA'S INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN VERY TIGHT. HE WAS APPARENTLY NOT ALLOWED TO AGREE TO FEWER THAN 4,000 SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS, AND FOR THAT REASON HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS. HE HAD CLAIMED HE WAS NOT WALKING OUT, AND THAT HE WISHED TO LEAVE OPEN THE POSSIBILITY TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS.
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9. DANJUMA SAID HE APPRECIATED US EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A SOLUTION IN NAMIBIA. HE NOTED THAT THE LONGER IT IS LEFT UNRESOLVED THE MORE POLARIZED IT BECOMES. THE SECRETARY AGREED. THE SECRETARY ADDED THAT IF LEFT ALONE THE SITUATION MIGHT RESULT IN ANOTHER, UNACCEPTABLE, INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

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10. DANJUMA VISIT: THE SECRETARY ASKED DANJUMA ABOUT HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. DANJUMA REPLIED THAT IT HAD BEEN EXCELLENT. IN PARTICULAR, IT HAD GIVEN HIM SOME USEFUL INSIGHTS INTO US METHODS OF MILITARY TRAINING WHICH WOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE AS NIGERIAN TRAINING IS REORGANIZED. DANJUMA SAID HE WOULD REQUEST ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING THE NIGERIAN DEFENSE ACADEMY INTO A DEGREE AWARDING INSTITUTION. THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT HE WOULD LOOK SYMPATHETICALLY ON THIS REQUEST AND NOTED THAT HIS PERSONAL INTEREST STEMMED IN PART FROM HIS EXPERIENCE AS SECRETARY OF THE ARMY. DANJUMA THEN PRAISED US MILITARY TRAINING. HE SAID THAT AT ONE TIME HE HAD THOUGHT THE US WAS OVERVALUING THE PERFORMANCE OF FOREIGN OFFICERS IN US INSTITUTIONS, BUT THAT HE NOW CONCLUDED THAT THE HIGH QUALITY OF TRAINING AFFORDED BY THESE INSTITUTIONS WAS THE REASON WHY SO MANY FOREIGN OFFICERS, INCLUDING NIGERIANS, RECEIVED HIGH MARKS. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE HOPED THE NIGERIAN DEFENSE ACADEMY WOULD DEVELOP INTO A WEST POINT BY THE 1980'S. THE SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD TALK TO DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN AND ENCOURAGE HIM TO BE HELPFUL IN ANSWERING THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST.

11. THE MEETING CONCLUDED WITH A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE WEATHER IN LAGOS AND KANO IN APRIL WHEN THE PRESIDENT
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WILL VISIT NIGERIA. VANCE

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